

## ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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| Report to     | ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE |
| Meeting date  | 11 January 2022                            |
| Report author | Deputy Town Clerk / RFO                    |
| Agenda item   | 7  |

### 2022-23 BUDGET ESTIMATES

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To inform members of the suggested 2022-23 budget for services within the responsibility of this committee.

2. **Summary**

It is recommended that, based on existing services and any additional projects contained in the Forward Plan, **a net expenditure budget of £161,679** is put forward for Council's approval.

3. **Action required**

The committee is required to:

- (i) Consider the draft budget produced by the RFO and make any suggestions for amendments / further information required<sup>1</sup>
- (ii) agree a 2022-23 budget recommendation for consideration by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Advisory Committee.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

Key Objective 3: To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> It is requested that any such requests are made ahead of the meeting to allow the information to be collated in time

5. **Background**

The corporate governance review led to a revised committee structure from 1 September 2021. As this was mid-way through a financial year, the 2021-22 budgets were set based on the previous committee structure. In prior years, the budget setting process would include considering projected year-end figures for existing services which each committee was responsible for. These figures are available to members via SharePoint but have not been included in this open report as, due to the significant changes in terms of reference for each committee, they do not in some cases compare like with like and so could be misinterpreted.

The suggested budget has been set based on a new coding structure (“chart of accounts”). All current year budgets across the council have been mapped to a new cost centre and account code, ensuring that the council’s proposed 2022-23 budgets include all relevant costs and income streams. In several cases, the existing cost centres have been split across two committees (e.g., cost centre 211 Cemeteries has been split into property costs, relating to the cemeteries’ land and buildings (included in FGAM committee’s budget) and costs and income relating to the cemetery service (included under this committee). This makes it difficult to compare the proposed budgets with the existing year. However, this information is available on SharePoint should any member wish to review.

The coding structure was reported to this committee at the last meeting (16 November 2021, agenda item 7).

6. **Key information and options**

**Appendix A** provides a breakdown of the proposed budget. The key assumptions made are:

- Existing services to continue
- Projects contained in the Forward Plan are included
- Where applicable inflation of 2.9% (as per September 2021 CPI<sup>2</sup>)

A significant change to the 2022-23 budgets is that all staffing costs are now included in the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee budgets. These costs will then be recharged out to the relevant cost centre (and committee). Prior to the start of the financial year, work shall be completed to allocate a share of the pay costs across the services of the council. This work is not required for the purposes of budget and precept setting and due to time constraints has not been completed yet.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

None.

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<sup>2</sup> Using the CPI value as of September 2021 is standard practice but it is acknowledged that inflation is currently higher than this. It is suggested that any shortfall which may occur across the Council’s costs should be covered by use of the general fund rather than added pressure to the precept and resulting council tax

8. **Financial/budget implications**

The recommendation from this committee shall have an impact on the precept agreed by Council.

9. **HR implications**

None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

[APPENDIX A](#)

Susan Whipp Deputy Town Clerk / RFO  
24 December 2021